

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/672,799

Examiner

Leonid Shapiro

Applicant(s)

STEPHENSON ET AL.

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09/26/03 Application.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of _____
- Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9-26-03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-30 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the cited references in combination with other limitations of claim teaches or suggests a display that has inter-segment conductive material disposed over areas of light modulating material not covered by second conductors, said conductive material having had an applied field to write the light- modulating material in said areas into a field-changed optical state, as disclosed in claim 1.

The closest art (Yamada et al. and Ulrich et al.) disclose displays, either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or suggest these limitations obvious.

None of the cited references in combination with other limitations of claim teaches or suggests a display that has an inter-segment background element, corresponding to the background region, comprising one or more sections which may be patterned into separate areas in a character re/on, said background element and said second conductors covering different areas of the light- modulating layer, which background element comprises a material that is electrically conductive such that, during manufacture it is capable of electrically writing the background region into one of the optically visible states, as disclosed in claim 15. The closest art (Yamada et al. and Ulrich et al.) disclose displays, either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or suggest these limitations obvious.

None of the cited references in combination with other limitations of claim teaches or suggests a display that has whereby the display may be addressed in a matrix fashion by electrically addressing, via electrical contact with the conductors in the third patterned conductor layer, the first and second patterned conductor layers, but wherein the inter-segment background conductors defining background is not electrically addressable via electrical contact with the conductors in the third patterned conductor layer, as disclosed in claim 16. The closest art (Yamada et al. and Ulrich et al.) disclose displays, either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or suggest these limitations obvious.

None of the cited references in combination with other limitations of claim teaches or suggests a method of making a display that has employing the inter-segment background conductors to electrically change the as-coated or heated light-modulating material controlled by said conductors to one of two contrasting optical states; connecting the display to a driver capable of addressing the display in a matrix fashion by electrically addressing, via electrical contact with the conductors in the third patterned conductor layer, the first and second patterned conductor layers, but wherein the inter-segment background conductors defining background is not electrically addressable by the driver via electrical contact with the conductors in the third patterned conductor layer, as disclosed in claim 20. The closest art (Yamada et al. and Ulrich et al.) disclose methods, either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or suggest these limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Telephone Inquire

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonid Shapiro whose telephone number is 571-272-7683. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 a.m. to 5 p.m..


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600